LAWS

OF THE

PHYSICAL SOCIETY,

HELD AT

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

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LAWS, &c.

CHAP. I.

Of the Society. — Its Meetings, &c.

Rule I.

THE Physical Society ſhall conſiſt of Honorary, Ordinary and Correſponding Members; together with the Officers hereafter ſpecified.

II.

The Society ſhall be convened on the firſt *Saturday* in *October*, and continue to meet on the ſame day of each ſucceeding Week, 'till the laſt *Saturday* in *May*. The meeting ſhall commence at Seven o'Clock, and cloſe at Ten.

III.

The Names of the Ordinary Members ſhall be called over at the beginning of each Meeting, when ſuch as are abſent ſhall forfeit Six-pence, unleſs they ſhall have ſent a written Excuſe; and every Ordinary Member leaving the Room

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during the Tranſaction of Buſineſs, without Permiſſion from the Preſident, ſhall forfeit One Shilling.

IV.

Five Members, legally aſſembled, ſhall be entitled to tranſact any Buſineſs of the Society except repealing, ſuſpending, or altering the Laws; for which Purpoſes, at leaſt Ten Members muſt be preſent.

V.

The Buſineſs of the Society, ſhall be of two Kinds; Public and Private. The Public Buſineſs ſhall conſiſt in the Communication of Caſes and Opinions; and in the reading and diſcuſſion of Diſſertations. The private Buſineſs ſhall include all other Matters in which the Society may be concerned.

VI.

In every Queſtion relating to the Buſineſs of the Society, and not previouſly ſettled in the Laws, any Member may demand a determination by Ballot.

VII.

To decide any Queſtion where a Ballot ſhall not be demanded, the mode ſhall be by Shew of

of Hands. Any Member refuſing to hold up his Hand on one Side or the other, ſhall be fined Six-pence.

CHAP. II.

Election of Members.

Rule I,

No one ſhall be admitted a Member, unleſs he ſhall have been regularly propoſed, ſeconded and balloted for. Such Propoſal, ſpecifying the Name and Reſidence of the Candidate, muſt be made in Writing, and ſhall remain for the Inſpection of the Members, in ſome conſpicuous Part of the Theatre, till the enſuing Meeting, when it ſhall be determined by Ballot.

II.

A Candidate having nine-tenths of the Votes of the Members preſent in his Favour, ſhall be admitted; if leſs than nine-tenths, he ſhall be rejected.

III.

To obviate any Miſtake in Elections, the Ballot ſhall in every Caſe of Rejection, be had Twice

Twice during the ſame Meeting. If in the ſecond Ballot the propoſed Member ſhould alſo be rejected, he ſhall on no Account be again propoſed during the ſame Seſſion.

CHAP. III.

Ordinary Members.

Rule I.

Each Ordinary Member ſhall, on his Admiſſion, pay Ten Shillings and Six-pence; and the further Sum of One Shilling every Fortnight.

II.

Any Ordinary Member being indebted to the Society, and not diſcharging his Debts ſhall be fined One Shilling for every Month, and if he further neglect to diſcharge them till after the laſt Meeting of the Seſſion, he ſhall be expelled.

III.

An Ordinary Member abſenting himſelf for Five ſucceſſive Meetings, without a ſufficient Excuſe, ſhall be expelled.

IV.

IV.

Each Ordinary Member ſhall in Succeſſion, deliver in a Diſſertation on ſome Phyſical Subject, under the penalty of Ten Shillings and Six-pence.

V.

Ordinary Members removing from London, ſhall, on expreſſing their deſire to the Preſident in Writing, be conſidered as Correſponding Members.

VI.

Ordinary Members having attended the Meetings of the Society for two Seſſions, and read two Diſſertations, may petition for Honorary Seats. Such Petitions muſt be in Writing, and having been read from the Chair, ſhall, on the enſuing Meeting, be determined by Ballot. The Candidate having three-fourths of the Votes in his Favour, ſhall be elected.

VII.

Every Ordinary Member not ſubſcribing to the Laws for three Meetings after his Election, ſhall forfeit his Seat.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Men of Eminence in the Profeſſion, not reſiding in London, may be propoſed as Correſponding Members

II.

Correſponding Members ſhall be exempted from paying Contributions, they ſhall enjoy the Privileges of Ordinary Members; and when in London, and attending the Society, they ſhall be conſidered as ſuch.

CHAP. V.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Phyſicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, and Men of Eminence in any of the Sciences, may be propoſed as Honorary Members.

II.

Honorary Members ſhall not be obliged to attend the Meetings of the Society, or to furniſh

niſh Papers for Diſcuſſion: they ſhall be exempted from the payment of Contributions and Fines, except in ſuch Caſes as ſhall be ſpecified to the contrary: they ſhall enjoy all the privileges of Ordinary Members: the power of writing for the Prizes alone excepted.

III.

An Honorary Member having engaged in any Office, is rendered liable to ſuch Penalties, as may be incurred by neglect of Duty in that Office.

CHAP. VI.

PRESIDENTS.

RULE I.

Six Preſidents ſhall be annually choſen by Ballot.

II.

Each ſhall preſide alternately; and if abſent at the time of Meeting, without having provided a Subſtitute, ſhall be fined Two Shillings and Six-pence.

III.

In the abſence of the Preſidents, the oldeſt Ordinary Member preſent, ſhall ſupply the Place, under the penalty of Two Shillings and Six-pence, on refuſal.

IV.

The Preſident in the Chair ſhall regulate and direct the Debates; he ſhall check any unprofitable Diſputes; and be inveſted with authority ſufficient to conduct every part of the Society's Buſineſs, with becoming Decorum.

V.

In any Queſtion, where the Votes of the Society ſhall be equally divided, the acting Preſident ſhall, beſide his Vote as a Member, have the Privilege of the caſting Vote.

VI.

The Preſidents ſhall be upon all Committees.

CHAP. VII.

LIBRARY, AND LIBRARIAN.

RULE I.

Such Sums of Money as the Society may from Time to Time think proper, ſhall be employed for the Purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a Library.

II.

Such Books only ſhall be purchaſed as ſhall have been propoſed by the Committee or Preſidents, and afterwards approved by the Society at large.

III.

Every Member ſhall be entitled to have in his Poſſeſſion one Set of Books; for which, at the Time of receiving them, he ſhall depoſit in the Hands of the Librarian, their full Value; and ſhall return them, if Octavos or under, within a Fortnight; or within a Month if above that Size. On failure, he ſhall forfeit Six-pence for every Day he keeps them beyond the Time allowed. If any Book be injured, the Money depoſited ſhall be forfeited.

IV.

The Librarian muſt be an Honorary Member.

V.

His Buſineſs ſhall be, to take Care of the Books; to keep a correct Catalogue of them; to deliver them to the Members; and to report at each Meeting, the Names of ſuch Members, as by retaining Books, may have incurred Fines. He, or his Deputy, ſhall be preſent in the Library, on every Monday, Wedneſday, and Friday, from Five till Six o'Clock.

VI.

The Librarian ſhall be anſwerable for any Books which may be loſt.

VII.

In caſe of neglect in Attendance, or in any other Buſineſs regarding the Library, the Librarian ſhall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence.

VIII.

He ſhall appoint his own Deputy.

IX.

IX.

At the End of every Seſſion, a Gratuity ſhall be given to the Deputy Librarian. The Gratuity ſhall not be leſs than Five Guineas nor exceed Ten; the particular Sum to be determined by Ballot.

CHAP. VIII.

TREASURER.

RULE I.

The Librarian ſhall alſo be inveſted with the office of Treaſurer.

II.

At the firſt Meeting in every Month, the Treaſurer ſhall deliver in the State of the Society's Accounts; on failure, he ſhall incur the penalty of One Shilling.

CHAP. IX.

SECRETARY.

RULE I.

A Secretary ſhall be annually choſen from thoſe who were ordinary Members the preceding Seſſion.

II.

II.

He ſhall be preſent in the Theatre before the time of Meeting, to furniſh Tickets, &c. His Buſineſs ſhall be to keep Minutes of the Society's Tranſactions; to read the Minutes, and call over the Liſt of Members; to collect and keep an Account of Fines, Admiſſion, and Subſcription-Money; to be accountable to the Treaſurer for ſuch Sums as he ſhall receive; and to collect Ballots and Votes. He ſhall likewiſe inform Members of their Election, and furniſh them with the Laws. He ſhall attend all Committees.

III.

Previous to the firſt Meeting in every Month, he ſhall require from the Treaſurer, an Account of the Society's Money, &c.

IV.

In caſe of Neglect in any part of his Duty, he ſhall be liable to a fine of One Shilling.

CHAP. X.

COMMITTEE.

RULE I.

At the Commencement of every Seaſon, a Committee ſhall be appointed, conſiſting of Eight

Eight of the Members; One half to be choſen by the ſitting Preſident, the other by the Society at large. This Committee ſhall tranſact ſuch Buſineſs as cannot conveniently be done by the whole Society, and ſhall make regular Reports of their Proceedings to the Society.

II.

The Gentlemen of the Committee may themſelves fix the Time of their Meeting: But, after it is determined, any Member of it, who fails to attend at the Time appointed, ſhall forfeit One Shilling.

III.

The Officers of the Society ſhall be on all Committees.

CHAP. XI.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

RULE I.

Beſide the Committee above ſpecified, a Committee ſhall be annually appointed, whoſe Office ſhall be to inſpect the Caſes delivered to the Society, and to ſelect ſuch of them as may be deemed worthy of Publication.

II.

II.

This Committee ſhall conſiſt of the ſix annual Preſidents, the Librarian, and Secretary, four Honorary, and four Ordinary Members; to be choſen by Ballot on the firſt Meeting of each Seſſion.

III.

The Committee ſhall meet occaſionally, according to the appointment of the Majority of its Members. Any Member who fails to attend at the Time appointed, ſhall forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings and Six-pence.

IV.

All Papers referred to the Deciſion of the Committee, muſt be legibly written by the Authors of them. They muſt be read at two ſeparate Meetings of the Committee, and afterwards approved or rejected by Ballot.

V.

No Paper ſhall be publiſhed, unleſs two thirds of the Ballots be in its Favour.

VI.

VI.

No one ſhall be preſent while the Propriety of publiſhing his own Paper is under conſideration.

VII.

No Buſineſs ſhall be tranſacted unleſs nine Members of the Committee be preſent.

CHAP. XII.

Dissertations.

Rule I.

At each Meeting of the Society ſhall be read a Diſſertation on ſome Phyſical Subject. No Subject to be brought before the Society twice during the ſame Seſſions.

II.

The Member, whoſe turn it may be to write, ſhall deliver in his Diſſertation at leaſt one Week previous to the Meeting, at which it is to be firſt read. If he neglect to do this, he ſhall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence; and the further Sum of Ten Shillings and Six-pence, if it be not delivered before the Meeting next enſuing.

III.

Each Diſſertation ſhall remain at leaſt one Week in the Library, for the Inſpection of the Members; at the expiration of which Time, it ſhall be read in the Society by the Author, and afterwards be kept by the Preſident, till the enſuing Meeting; when it ſhall be diſcuſſed.

IV.

The Preſident ſhall at that Meeting, again read over the Diſſertation, and point out ſuch Parts as may appear proper Subjects for Debate; when any Remarks which may be offered ſhall be received.

V.

No Diſſertation ſhall be the Subject of Diſcuſſion at more than two Meetings.

VI.

Each Ordinary Member intending not to write, and neglecting to give Notice of ſuch Intention, till within one Month from the Meeting, at which his Diſſertation is to be received, ſhall, excluſive of the Penalties already ſpecified, forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

VII.

VII.

Honorary Members, having engaged to furniſh Diſſertations, are ſubject to the above Regulations.

CHAP. XIII.

PRIZE DISSERTATIONS.

RULE I.

Two Sets of Books, value Three Guineas each Set, ſhall be annually given to the Authors of the Two beſt Diſſertations on ſome Phyſical Subjects.

II.

The Subjects ſhall be fixed on by the Preſidents, and given out on the firſt Meeting of each Seſſion; and not preſented to the Society for Diſcuſſion during that Seſſion.

III.

The Diſſertations ſhall be delivered to the Librarian, on or before the laſt Meeting of that Seſſion.

IV.

IV.

The Preſidents ſhall determine, which Diſſertations have gained the Prizes, before the firſt Meeting of the enſuing Seſſion; at which Meeting, the Diſſertations ſhall be read by the Authors, or by the Preſident.

V.

The Diſſertations after having been read, ſhall be depoſited in the Societys' Library.

VI.

A Motto ſhall be prefixed to each Diſſertation, and with it ſhall be delivered a ſealed Packet, with the ſame Motto on the Outſide, and with the Author's Name on the Inſide.

VII.

All the Diſſertations, the ſucceſsful Ones excepted, ſhall be returned, with the Packets, containing the Names of the Authors, unopened.

VIII.

VIII.

Ordinary and ſuch Correſpondent as have been Ordinary Members, ſhall alone be Candidates for the Prizes.

CHAP. XIV.

VISITORS.

RULE I.

Each Member may, at every Meeting of the Society, introduce one Viſitor; but not more than *one*, under the Penalty of One Shilling. The Preſidents ſhall not be limited in this Reſpect.

II

The Name of each Viſitor ſhall be delivered in Writing to the Preſident, by the Member introducing him, under the Penalty of One Shilling. Under the ſame Penalty, the Member ſhall alſo inſert the Viſitor's Name in a Book kept for that Purpoſe.

III.

III.

Any Member introducing a Viſitor after the Society has met, ſhall forfeit Six-pence.

IV.

The ſame Gentleman ſhall not be introduced as a Viſitor, more than twice in a Seſſion, under the Penalty of One Shilling, to be paid by the Member introducing him.

V.

The Viſitors ſhall be entitled equally with the Members, to join in the Debates of the Society.

VI.

No Viſitor ſhall be preſent during the Tranſaction of private Buſineſs.

N. B. *The above Regulations reſpect Honorary, as well as Ordinary Members.*

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Any Member diſſatisfied with the conduct of another, may accuſe him. The Accuſation muſt be delivered to the Preſident in Writing, and by him be read to the Society on the Meeting previous to that, on which it ſhall be determined.

II.

The accuſed Member ſhall be informed by the Secretary, of the Charge made againſt him, and of the Day appointed for its Determination.

III.

The Determination ſhall be by Ballot; two-thirds of the Society preſent approving the Accuſation, the accuſed Party ſhall be expelled. If leſs than two-thirds appear in its Favour, the Accuſer ſhall forfeit One Guinea.

IV.

Members improperly diſcloſing any Debates or Reſolutions of the Society during private Buſineſs, ſhall be liable to the Penalty

of

of Ten Shillings and Six-pence; to be determined by the Majority of the Society.

CHAP. XVI.

ALTERING OF LAWS.

RULE I.

No Propoſal for Alteration in the Laws ſhall be made, except in a Meeting conſiſting of at leaſt Ten Members.

II.

Such Propoſal muſt be delivered in Writing to the Preſident, and by him be read to the Society. It muſt then be entered on the Minutes, and remain a Fortnight before it can be balloted for.

III.

If three-fourths of the Society appear in Favour of the Propoſal, it ſhall be received as a Law; if leſs than three-fourths, it ſhall be rejected, and the Propoſer fined Two Shillings and Six-pence.

Order of the Business at each Meeting.

Public Business.

1. The Chair ſhall be taken at Seven o'Clock.
2. The Names of the Ordinary Members called over.
3. Viſitors declared by the Preſident.
4. The Public Minutes of the preceding Meeting read.
5. Medical News and Obſervations received.
   This to conclude at Eight o'Clock.
6. The Diſſertation intended for Diſcuſſion at the enſuing Meeting, read by the Author.
7. The Diſſertation read by the Author at the preceding Meeting, diſcuſſed.
   This to conclude at Ten o'Clock.

Private Business.

1. The private Minutes ſhall be read and confirmed; the Viſitors having previouſly withdrawn.
2. The Diſſertation received by the Secretary.
3. The Author of the Diſſertation next to be delivered, declared.

4. New elected Members introduced, and Laws ſigned by them.
5. New Members propoſed.
6. The Ballot declared.
7. Reports of Committees, or other miſcellaneous Buſineſs of the Society, attended to.
8. The Money collected.
9. The Society adjourned.

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